

Bush Resigns as Head of CIA; Ex-Agency Deputy Wants Job

By JEFFREY ANTEVIL

Washington (News Bureau)—George Bush announced yesterday his resignation as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, effective at the start of the Carter administration on Jan. 20.

Bush, 52, gave Carter a lengthy briefing on intelligence matters in Plains, Ga., and sources said it was "reasonable to presume" that he told Carter then of his intention to resign. He informed both Carter and President Ford formally of his plans yesterday, pledging his "continuing full assistance" to the incoming administration.

A millionaire oilman and the son of the late Sen. Prescott Bush (R-Conn.), Bush served in Congress from Houston, Tex., and was chairman of the Republican National Committee, ambassador to the United Nations and U.S. envoy to Peking before Ford named him to head the CIA a year ago.

His appointment, which encountered some opposition in Congress because of his political background, came at a time when the CIA was being buffeted by revelations of past abuses, including assassination plots against foreign leaders. His stewardship, as the fourth CIA chief in two years, has been devoted largely to restoring the agency's tarnished reputation.

Bush had been considered a potential running mate for Ford this year, but the President was forced to rule him off the ticket in order to insure Bush's Senate confirmation to head the CIA.

Sources close to the director said he did not believe the CIA job should be a "political appointment" to be made by each new President, but that he did feel the chief executive should have a free hand to name his own man. Bush re-



Associated Press photo
George Bush, announcing date of resignation as CIA chief.

portedly believes that the resulting "relationship of confidence, mutual trust and direct access" to the President would strengthen the director's position.

In 1961 and 1969, when there was a change of party control of the White House, the then-Director of Central Intelligence continued in his post.

Carter has given no indication of his choice to succeed Bush.